

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 5 1. A method for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said method comprising:
providing at least one private-public encryption key pair for said recipient;
encrypting data with a public key, of said private-public encryption key pair;
10 providing said encrypted data for display on an envelope containing said parcel or document;
decrypting said encrypted data with a private key, of said private-public encryption key pair, to yield said recipient's address; and
delivering said parcel or document to said recipient.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said encrypting further comprises encrypting said recipient's address with said public key.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing at least one symmetric encryption key for said recipient;
encrypting said recipient's address with said symmetric key; and
wherein said encrypting data with a public key further comprises encrypting said symmetric key with said public key.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said encrypted data is displayed on said envelope by said sender.
- 30 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said encrypted data is displayed on said envelope by a delivery agency.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said decrypting is done by a delivery person, shortly before delivery of said parcel or document.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said decrypting is done by a delivery agency, shortly after receiving said parcel or document from said sender.
- 35 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
displaying an identifier of said parcel or document on said envelope, said identifier not being encrypted.
- 40 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said decrypting further comprises:
providing at least one client computer in communication with a computer network;
providing input of data displayed on said envelope to said client computer, including said identifier of said parcel or document, and said encrypted data;

providing input to said client computer from a server computer over said computer network; and providing output from said client computer, including said recipient's address.

10. A method for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said method comprising:
 5 providing at least one symmetric encryption key for said recipient;
 encrypting said recipient's address with said symmetric encryption key;
 displaying said encrypted address on an envelope containing said parcel or document;
 10 decrypting said encrypted address with said symmetric encryption key, to yield said recipient's address; and
 delivering said parcel or document to said recipient.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said encrypted address comprises a post office box number.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
 displaying an identifier of said parcel or document on said envelope, said identifier not being encrypted.

13. A method for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said method comprising:
 20 providing at least one server computer in communication with a computer network;
 providing at least one private-public encryption key pair for said recipient;
 encrypting data with a public key, of said private-public encryption key pair;
 25 storing said encrypted data on said server;
 receiving a request for said encrypted data from a client computer, over said computer network; and
 transmitting said encrypted data from said server to said client computer, over said computer network, for display on an envelope containing said parcel or document.

14. A method for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said method comprising:
 providing at least one server computer in communication with a computer network;
 providing at least one private-public encryption key pair for said recipient;
 35 encrypting data with a public key, of said private-public encryption key pair;
 transmitting a request for decryption to said server from a client computer, over said computer network;
 decrypting said encrypted data with a private key, of said private-public encryption key pair, to yield said recipient's address;
 40 providing said recipient's address to a delivery person via said client computer; and
 delivering said parcel or document to said recipient.

15. A method for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said method comprising:
 providing at least one private-public encryption key pair for said sender (sender's key pair);
 encrypting data unique to said sender (sender's data) with a sender's private key, of said sender's
 5 key pair;
 providing said encrypted sender's data for display on an envelope containing said parcel or document;
 delivering said parcel or document to said recipient; and
 decrypting said encrypted sender's data with a sender's public key, of said sender's key pair.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein:
 said encrypting further comprises:
 encrypting said sender's address; and
 generating a digital signature; and
 15 said decrypting further comprises verifying that said sender sent said parcel or document to said recipient.

17. A system for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said system comprising:
 means for providing at least one private-public encryption key pair;
 means for encrypting data with a public key, of said private-public encryption key pair;
 means for providing said encrypted data for display on an envelope containing said parcel or document; and
 20 means for decrypting said encrypted data with a private key, of said private-public encryption key pair.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said means for encrypting further comprises means for encrypting said recipient's address with said public key.

19. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for providing at least one symmetric encryption key for said recipient;
 means for encrypting said recipient's address with said symmetric key; and
 wherein said means for encrypting data with a public key further comprises means for encrypting
 said symmetric key with said public key.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein said encrypted data is displayed on said envelope by said sender.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein said encrypted data is displayed on said envelope by a delivery agency.

22. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means for displaying an identifier of said parcel or document on said envelope, said identifier not being encrypted.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein said means for decrypting further comprises:
at least one client computer in communication with a computer network;
means for providing input of data displayed on said envelope to said client computer, including said identifier of said parcel or document, and said encrypted data;
means for providing input to said client computer from a server computer over said computer network; and
means for providing output from said client computer, including said recipient's address.

24. A computer-usable medium having computer-executable instructions for secure delivery of a parcel or document from a sender to a recipient, said computer-executable instructions comprising:

means for providing at least one private-public encryption key pair;
means for encrypting data with a public key, of said private-public encryption key pair;
means for providing said encrypted data for display on an envelope containing said parcel or document; and
means for decrypting said encrypted data with a private key, of said private-public encryption key pair.

25. The computer-usable medium of claim 24, wherein said means for encrypting further comprises means for encrypting said recipient's address with said public key.

26. The computer-usable medium of claim 24, further comprising:
means for providing at least one symmetric encryption key for said recipient;
means for encrypting said recipient's address with said symmetric key; and
wherein said means for encrypting data with a public key further comprises means for encrypting said symmetric key with said public key.

27. The computer-usable medium of claim 24, wherein said encrypted data is displayed on said envelope by said sender.

28. The computer-usable medium of claim 24, wherein said encrypted data is displayed on said envelope by a delivery agency.

29. The computer-usable medium of claim 24, further comprising:
means for displaying an identifier of said parcel or document on said envelope, said identifier not being encrypted.

30. The computer-usable medium of claim 29, wherein said means for decrypting further comprises:

means for providing input of data displayed on said envelope to a client computer in
communication with a computer network, including said identifier of said parcel or document, and
said encrypted data;
means for providing input to said client computer from a server computer over said computer
network; and
means for providing output from said client computer, including said recipient's address.

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